

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐ no ☒

Property Name: Potomac United Methodist Church and Cemetery Inventory Number: M:29-11
Address: 10300 Falls Road (MD 25) 9908 South Glen Road Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ X no
City: Potomac (Potomac UM Church & Cemetery) (Parish Center) Zip Code: 20854 County: Montgomery

USGS Quadrangle(s): Rockville

Property Owner: Potomac Church Tax Account ID Number: 00860211

Tax Map Parcel Number(s): P603 Tax Map Number: FP43

Project: Potomac United Methodist Church and Cemetery DOE for Cell Agency: Advantage Environmental Consultants

Agency Prepared By: EHT Traceries, Inc.

Preparer's Name: Laura Trieschmann Date Prepared: 5/12/2006

Documentation is presented in: Regular DOE

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ X Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: _____

Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☒ X Listed: ☐ yes ☒ X

Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ X no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The history of the Potomac United Methodist Church began in 1716 with the establishment of the Captain John Presbyterian Meeting House on the Falls Road property. It began with Reverend Hugh Conn, a traveling preacher who came from Virginia at the invitation of Maryland's first Presbyterian Governor William Stone in the first part of the eighteenth century. The meeting house on Falls Road was a modest log structure, constructed on property given in 1746 after the building was completed by Edward Offutt, a member of the prominent Offutt family for whom Potomac received its original name, "Offutt's Crossroads." The Presbyterian meeting house, which ceased to operate by 1830, was replaced in 1854 by the Potomac Chapel, which housed a Methodist congregation. The present Colonial Revival-style church constructed in 1969, erected on the site of the 1854 building that had been renovated and enlarged numerous times between 1884 and 1963. The 5.49-acre site is edged by mature trees, a number of which shade the cemetery and church. The cemetery, interring several hundred burials, was never formally laid out with plots. It includes both marked and unmarked graves of county residents, members of the congregation, reverends, and soldiers from nearly every war. The oldest interments are believed to include those of Reverend James Hunt and his wife, Ruth, both of whom died in 1793. Remains of early patriots of the Revolutionary War are believed to also be buried in the cemetery, although the markers and records have been lost and no documentation has been located to support this. An unmarked section of the cemetery is believed to be the burial grounds for Civil War soldiers killed in unrecorded skirmishes or from disease while stationed at the nearby Great Falls. Again, no documentation or physical evidence has been located to support this thesis. A Cemetery Committee

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒ X

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments:

Andrew Lewis
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

[Signature]
Reviewer, National Register Program

6/1/06
Date

5/31/06
Date

200601732

M:29-11

Potomac United Methodist Church and Cemetery

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has since established plots and markers, the majority of which are laid in rows running north to south with paved paths between. Ms. Claire Kitchen bequeathed a legacy to the church for the beautification and renovation of the cemetery, which now includes the Claire Kitchen Memorial Garden (erected in the late twentieth century). In 1976, the property was listed in the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites; however, in the 1990s, it was been removed from the inventory by the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning, Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission's review of the property's integrity and significance following additional documentation.

Thus, it has been determined that the Potomac United Methodist Church and Cemetery is not eligible for listing in the Maryland Register of Historical Places and the National Register of Historic Places. The Potomac United Methodist Church and Cemetery is believed to directly have been associated with the events and trends that have made a contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the establishment of the Presbyterian Church and the growth of the United Methodist Church in Montgomery County. However, no standing structures related to the Presbyterian Church exists on the property presently, and more intact examples of the growth of the United Methodist Church in Montgomery County exist with historic structures. Although the property is believed to have been the site of Civil War encampments and interments, no documentation or physical evidence has been discovered to support this thesis. Therefore, it is not eligibility under Criterion A. The property is not associated with any person or group of persons of outstanding importance to the community, state, or nation. Therefore, the cemetery is not eligible under Criterion B. The cemetery, which was not formally plotted or designed until the latter half of the twentieth century, contains several hundred graves, both marked and unmarked. The marked graves document the interment traditions of local residents from 1793 to 2006. However, the cemetery is not a good representative of these burial traditions, because of the lack of a formal plan or design. Further, the present church was constructed in 1969, and is representative of mid- to late-twentieth-century religious architecture in Montgomery County, but does not reflect any distinctive characteristics architecturally. Moreover, the building is less than fifty years of age. Although the property is said to have been associated with the Civil War activities of Captain John Mosby and his raiders, no written documentation or physical evidence has been located to substantiate this claim. Additionally, local lore indicates the property has unmarked graves believed to date from the Revolutionary period and the Civil War years, but again, this has not been documented. Therefore, the cemetery does not qualify for eligibility under Criterion C. Because of the formal plotting of the cemetery in the late twentieth century, the razing of the meeting house and first church, and the construction of the present church, shed, parish center, and memorial gardens on the site, it is believed that the archaeological integrity of the site has been compromised. Therefore, it is recommended that the Potomac United Methodist Church and Cemetery is not eligible under Criterion D.

Background History

From the middle to late eighteenth century, the meeting house was under the direction of Reverend James Hunt. In 1778, Hunt patriotically took the Loyalty Oath (Oath of Fidelity and Support), disavowing allegiance to England and swearing loyalty to the State of Maryland. The meeting house is believed to have been the site of many loyalty meetings before and during the Revolutionary War (1775-1781). An educator and a theologian, Hunt served two congregations and established Tusculum Academy, the first secondary school for young men in Montgomery County. The school was located at Hunt's home, "Tusculum," operating from 1783 to 1787. Hunt is buried on the property along with his wife, Ruth; they died within a month of each other. The markers, the oldest in the cemetery, are dated 1793. Remains of early patriots of the Revolutionary War are believed to also be buried in the cemetery, although the markers and records have been lost.

John Brackenridge, the supply pastor of the meeting house and founder of Rockville Academy, was appointed Chaplain of the United States Senate in 1811, and was "among the first to afford comforts and consolations to the wounded and otherwise afflicted prisoners" during the invasion of the City of Washington during the War of 1812 (1812-1815). The Reverend William Maffitt, the other supply pastor for the meeting house, was host to President James Madison at his home Salona in Virginia on the first night he fled from Washington (August 24-25, 1814).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___A___B___C___D Considerations: ___A___B___C___D___E___F___G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

By 1830, a substantial decrease in the membership forced the Captain John Meeting House to discontinue services, and abandon the wood-frame structure on the property. Consequently, ownership of the land reverted to Oratio Clagett, who maintained the surrounding farmland. In 1854, the first Potomac Chapel, part of the Methodist Church, was constructed on the property, replacing the meeting house. It was constructed by Richard and Jeremiah Collins. The congregation totaled 42 persons in 1856. In 1865, the Potomac Chapel School, one of the first free elementary schools in the county, was constructed adjacent to the church. In 1866, the property was officially deeded as a gift to the congregation by Oratio and Margaret Clagett, who are buried in the cemetery to the northeast of the church.

During the Civil War (1861-1865), because of the county's geographic location, Union and Confederate troops marched across the county; often advancing units camped and skirmished within the borders of Montgomery County. An unmarked section of the cemetery at the Potomac Chapel is believed to be the burial grounds for Civil War soldiers killed in unrecorded skirmishes or from disease while stationed at the nearby Great Falls. Local lore recounts that the Confederate raider Colonel John Mosby and his men, who frequently penetrated the county in 1862, camped in the churchyard, although no evidence of this has been discovered. The Civil War divided Montgomery County and local Methodists, who separated from the part church and became part of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

In 1884, the church was renovated and enlarged. The first parsonage was purchased in 1908 from Edward Perry. By 1923, the Potomac Chapel had grown to 256 members, and in 1924, an auditorium was added. The first part of the parish house was constructed in 1956 by Preston Stearn, and in 1963 an addition was added.

As the population of Potomac grew in the mid-twentieth century, the congregation chose to demolish the one-story wood-frame church, which had been renovated several times since its construction in 1854, and build a more imposing two-story Colonial Revival-style masonry church. The original chapel was razed in April 1969, and the cornerstone of the new church was laid on September 21, 1969. It was constructed by contractors Coleman and Wood and cost \$250,000 to build. The new Sanctuary seats 350 people in the nave, with balcony space for 100 persons and a choir loft for 36 members. A number of the stained glass windows from the Potomac Chapel were retained and preserved.

In 1968, the Methodists had united with the United Brethren in Christ and the Evangelical Church, again acquiring a new name, Potomac United Methodist Church. A new parsonage was purchased at 10209 Gary Road in 1970. In 1976, the Potomac Church and Cemetery was designated one of Montgomery County's Historic Sites, but has since been removed from the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites. It has also been commemorated as an historic site by the Janet Montgomery Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, with markers placed in 1916. A new parish center was constructed in 2004 on the adjacent property at 9908 South Glen Road, to the east of the church and cemetery property.

The 5.49-acre site is edged by mature trees, a number of which shade the cemetery and church. The cemetery, interring several hundred burials, was never formally laid out with plots. It includes both marked and unmarked graves of prominent county residents, members of the congregation, reverends, and soldiers from nearly every war. A Cemetery Committee has since established plots and markers, the majority of which are laid in rows running north to south with paved paths between. Ms. Claire Kitchen bequeathed a legacy to the church for the beautification and renovation of the cemetery, which now includes the Claire Kitchen Memorial Garden.

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Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

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MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

PARISH CENTER

9908 SOUTH ELEN ROAD

PAVED PARKING

PROPERTY LINE

SHED

PAVED DRIVE

CLARE KITCHEN
MEMORIAL
GARDEN

PAVED WALK

PAVED
WALK
HUNT

PAVED WALK

PAVED
PARKING

FALLS ROAD

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

M:29-11

POTOMAC UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH AND CEMETERY
10300 FALLS ROAD, POTOMAC
MONTGOMERY COUNTY



NOT TO SCALE

MAY 16, 2006

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M:29-11



Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Real Property Data Search

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Account Identifier: District - 10 Account Number - 00860211

Owner Information

Owner Name: POTOMAC CHURCH Use: EXEMPT COMMERCIAL
Principal Residence: NO
Mailing Address: 9908 S GLEN RD Deed Reference: 1)
POTOMAC MD 20854-4128 2)

Location & Structure Information

Premises Address

10300 FALLS RD
POTOMAC 20854

Legal Description

ROCKVILLE POTOMAC RD

Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Assessment Area	Plat No: Plat Ref:
FP43		P603		1				2	

Special Tax Areas	Town Ad Valorem Tax Class
	42

Primary Structure Built	Enclosed Area	Property Land Area	County Use
0000		5.49 AC	691

Stories	Basement	Type	Exterior

Value Information

	Base Value	Value As Of 01/01/2005	Phase-in Assessments As Of	
			07/01/2005	07/01/2006
Land:	1,111,800	1,554,400		
Improvements:	616,400	641,400		
Total:	1,728,200	2,195,800	1,884,066	2,039,932
Preferential Land:	0	0	0	0

Transfer Information

Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:
Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:
Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:

Exemption Information

Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2005	07/01/2006
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0

Tax Exempt: COUNTY AND STATE
Exempt Class:

Special Tax Recapture:

* NONE *

Click here for a plain text ADA compliant screen.

M: 29-11



Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Real Property Data Search

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Account Identifier: District - 10 Account Number - 03416344

Owner Information

Owner Name: POTOMAC METHODIST CHURCH Use: EXEMPT COMMERCIAL
Principal Residence: NO
Mailing Address: 9908 S GLEN RD Deed Reference: 1)
POTOMAC MD 20854-4128 2)

Location & Structure Information

Premises Address

9908 S GLEN RD
POTOMAC 20854

Legal Description

POTOMAC HILLS

Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Assessment Area	Plat No:	22641
FP43				5		A	17	2	Plat Ref:	

Special Tax Areas	Town Ad Valorem Tax Class	53
Primary Structure Built 2005	Enclosed Area 24,100 SF	Property Land Area 118,216.00 SF
County Use 681		

Stories	Basement	Type	Exterior

Value Information

	Base Value	Value As Of 01/01/2005	Phase-in Assessments As Of 07/01/2005	As Of 07/01/2006
Land:	1,536,800	1,536,800		
Improvements:	3,273,500	3,637,300		
Total:	4,810,300	5,174,100	4,931,566	5,052,832
Preferential Land:	0	0	0	0

Transfer Information

Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:
Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:
Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:

Exemption Information

Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2005	07/01/2006
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0

Tax Exempt: COUNTY AND STATE
Exempt Class:

Special Tax Recapture:

* NONE *

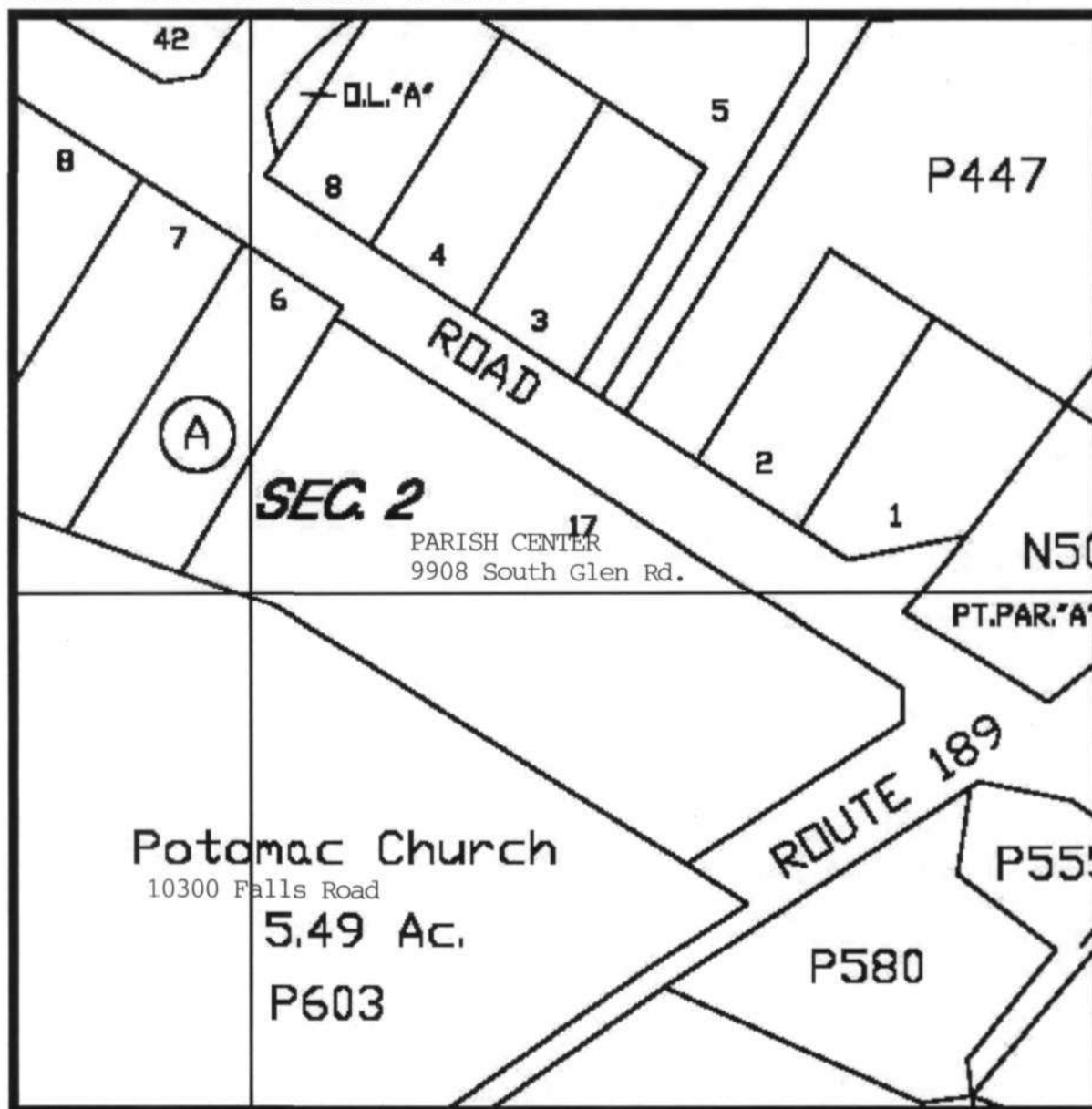
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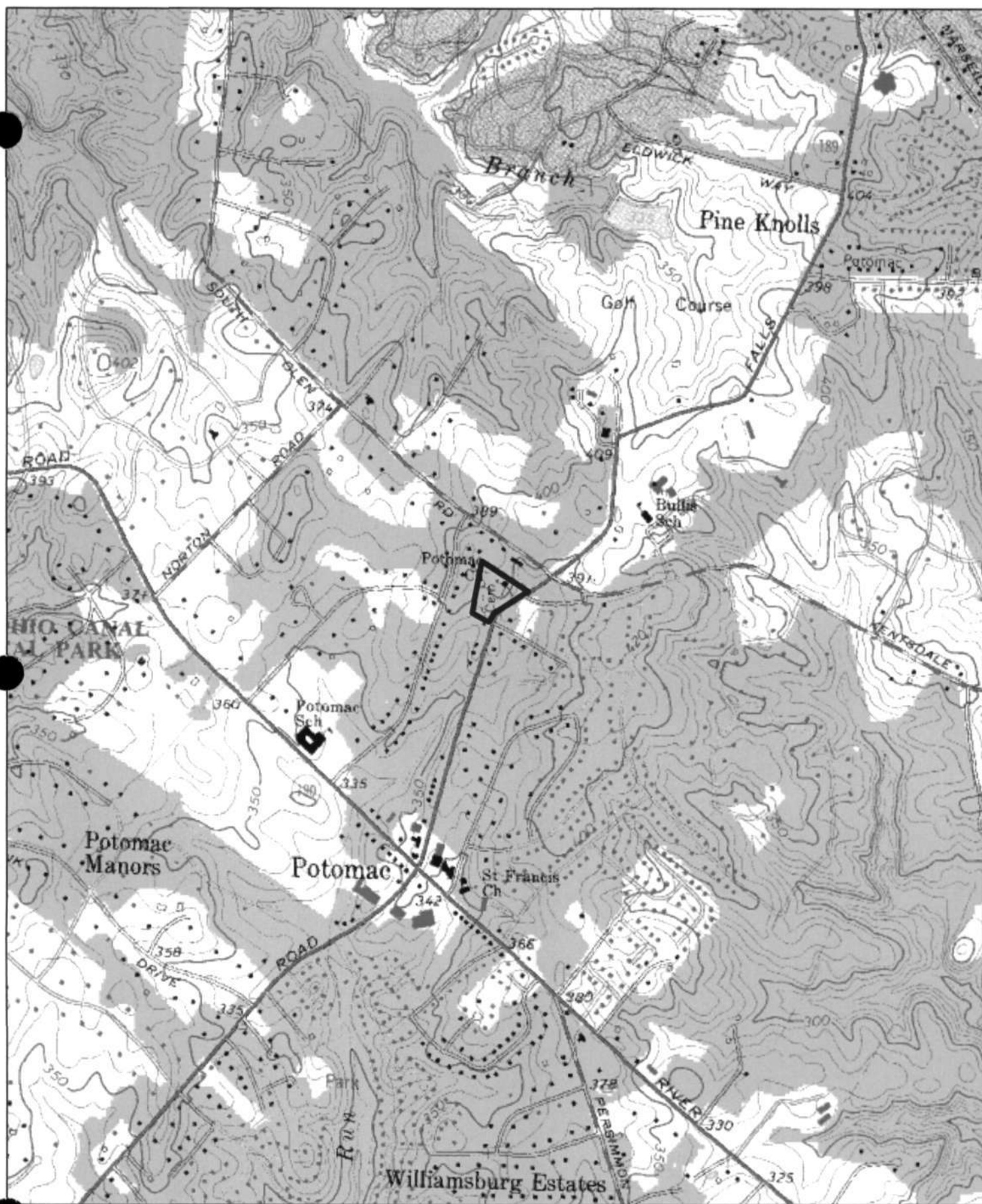
Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
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District - 10 Account Number - 03416344



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For more information on electronic mapping applications, visit the Maryland Department of Planning
web site at www.mdp.state.md.us/webcom/index.html

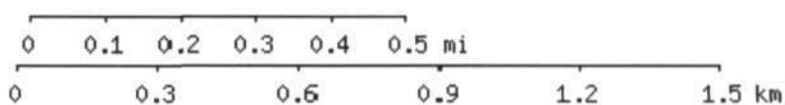


M: 29-11

Potomac United Methodist Church and
Cemetery
10300 Falls Road
Potomac, Maryland
Rockville quadrangle (1981)



M=-10.755
G=-1.39





M: 29-11

POTOMAC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY
10300 FALLS ROAD, POTOMAC

TRACERIES

MAY 2006

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING NORTHEAST

10FG



M:29-11

POTOMAC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY
10300 FALLS ROAD, POTOMAC
TRACERIES

MAY 2006

MARYLAND SHPO

GRAVEMARKERS OF REVEREND HUNT AND HIS WIFE
LOOKING NORTHWEST
20FG



M: 29-11

POTOMAC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY
10300 FALLS ROAD, POTOMAC

TRACERIES

MAY 2006

MARYLAND SHPO

CEMETERY LOOKING NORTHWEST

30FG



M: 29-11

POTOMAC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY
10300 FALLS ROAD, POTOMAC
TRACERIES

MAY 2006

MARYLAND SHPO

CEMETERY, LOOKING NORTH

4 OF 6



M: 29-11

POTOMAC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY
10300 FALLS ROAD, POTOMAC

TRACERIES

MAY 2006

MARYLAND SHPO

CEMETERY LOOKING EAST

5 OF 6



M: 29-11

POTOMAC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY
10300 FALLS ROAD, POTOMAC
TRACERIES

MAY 2006

MARYLAND SHPO

CEMETERY AND CHURCH LOOKING SOUTHWEST

6 OF 6